

Davis, Meghaan

From: m s <kg7vfy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Davis, Meghaan
Subject: Re: Request for public testimony - Portland Police Mugshots

Hi Meghaan:

10/14 is good for me.

Thank you,
Matt

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 5:08 PM Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

>
> Hello Matt,
>
> I can get you signed up for communications. The dates we have available for next month is 10/14, 10/21 and 10/28.
> Would you like one of those days?
>
> Thank you –
>
> Meghaan Davis
> OSS II | Office of the City Auditor
> The City of Portland, Oregon
> 1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130
> Portland, OR 97204-1987
> T: (503) 823.0918
> Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov
>
>
> Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
> Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 5:25 PM
> To: m s <kg7vfy@gmail.com>; Davis, Meghaan
> <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>
> Subject: RE: Request for public testimony - Portland Police Mugshots
>
> Hi Matt,
> Thanks for your request to sign up for a Communication. My colleague, Meghaan, will help you get signed up for the
> next available spot and provide information about how to join the meeting.
>
> Keelan McClymont
> Assistant Council Clerk
>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: m s <kg7vfy@gmail.com>
> Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:36 PM
> To: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
> Subject: Request for public testimony - Portland Police Mugshots
>
> Dear City Council:
>
> Please accept my request for a 3 minutes time slot to submit public testimony in the next City Council Meeting.
>
> I'd like to express concern about public safety as it relates to the practice of Portland Police sharing mugshots and personal information of protestors accused of non-violent crimes.
>
> Recent media accounts indicate community members are being harassed and threatened due to this information being shared online.
>
> San Francisco faced a similar problem and enhanced their policy whereby mugshot and personal information is only released when doing so enhances public safety.
>
> I aim to raise the dangers of the current practice to the Council and point to possible solutions that enhance community safety.
>
> Best Regards,
> Matt Smith
> Downtown Portland

Request of Matt Smith to address Council regarding the practice of Portland Police sharing mugshots and personal information of protesters accused of non-violent crimes (Communication)

October 14, 2020

Placed on File

Filed 10/6/2020

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

Keelan
By McClymont Deputy

Digitally signed by Keelan
McClymont
Date: 2020.10.06 10:56:33
-07'00'

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Ryan		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		

From: [m s](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony - Matt Smith 10/14/2020 - Police Mugshots
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:03:08 AM

Dear Portland City Council:

My goal is to highlight issues with the practice of publishing police mugshots.

Currently, when individuals are arrested by the Portland Police and booked in the Multnomah County Detention Center, their name, age, place of residence and photograph are published on local government websites. An arrest is only the acustation of a crime - everyone is entitled to the presumption of innocence. Given this presumption of innocence, is it reasonable at this stage to publish the personal details and photographs of all arrestees? When charges are dropped - as they have been for 70% of protest arrests - are we publishing face photos and promoting the resulting innocence? The answer is no.

Beyond the conflict with the presumption of innocence, there is overwhelming evidence of implicit bias in policing. In Portland, it has been shown that Black protestors are twice as likely to be arrested as White protestors. Given this implicit bias, by publishing mugshots of the presumed innocent on government websites, we're amplifying racially biased inputs of the criminal justice system. The result of this process is that our local government is reinforcing racial stereotypes, thereby severely damaging efforts to promote racial justice.

Publishing photographs of the innocent is also at odds with the recent ban on Facial Recognition technology. If we're concerned for citizen privacy and concerned about the potential for misuse of facial photographs, is it coherent for our city to publish facial photographs and personal information of the presumed innocent? Is this enabling if not outright performing facial recognition, thereby harming the privacy and potentially the safety of our citizens who, again, are presumed innocent? Accounts of targeted harassment of arrestees suggests mugshots of the presumed innocent have a great potential for misuse.

Thank you for your time and attention. There is much work to be done to promote justice for our fellow citizens. I hope the above points on the role of facial photographs early in the criminal justice system process and our government's role in promoting them resonates with the Council. I believe we can find a better balance between transparency, the presumption of innocence, implicit bias, privacy and safety.

Best Regards,
Matt Smith
Downtown Portland